

## **U.S. EPA Re-registration Eligibility Decision of Fumigants Pertaining to California Uses**

*Kevin J. Solari, Senior Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Pesticide Regulation, Worker Health and Safety Branch*

This presentation is an overview of new changes that apply to the use of soil-applied fumigants in California. The changes apply to fumigants that contain Metam sodium, Metam potassium and Dazomet (all Methyl Isothiocyanate-MITC producers), Methyl bromide, Chloropicrin and Methyl iodide. These changes have been implemented because of recent label revisions made by the U.S. EPA and by California Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) regulations, restricted material permit conditions and California only mitigation strategies.

USEPA is making these label changes to help better protect workers and bystanders while maintaining key use benefits of these fumigants across the country. Results stemming from USEPA's comprehensive re-evaluation (the RED) of these fumigants largely determined how exposure risk is mitigated through each fumigant label. USEPA labeling changes for each of the aforementioned soil-applied fumigants is being carried out in two phases. The first phase was implemented as of December 31, 2010 and effects new labeling for 2011. The second phase is currently being developed by USEPA and the states and is proposed to be implemented sometime in late 2011 or in 2012. Key components to mitigating risk for workers and bystanders required on the new labels include Respiratory Protection and Stop Work Triggers for handlers, Good Agricultural Practices and the Fumigant Management Plan (FMP).

California currently has registered products containing the active ingredients Metam sodium/potassium, Dazomet, Methyl bromide, Chloropicrin and Methyl iodide. USEPA label changes affect the use of all of these products. Additionally, DPR has other means available to mitigate the risks associated with exposure to these fumigants. For instance, DPR has developed templates for the FMP that are available on DPR's website (see below). DPR has also developed application method-specific recommended permit conditions for Metam sodium/potassium and Dazomet that are now available to County Agricultural Commissioners. DPR's Methyl bromide regulations have recently been revised to clarify respirator language, township cap limitations, and maximum work hour allowances for respirator use. DPR is currently in the process of developing interim and regionally-specific suggested permit conditions for Chloropicrin only soil-applied fumigants. For Methyl iodide, DPR determined that placing all California mitigation measures and conditions on a label for state use only is the best means of keeping the possibility of exposure to a minimum and within safe levels.

### **References:**

California Fumigant Management Plan (CA FMP): <http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/enforce/preffrm/preffinnu.htm>

Application method-specific recommended permit conditions for Metam sodium/potassium and Dazomet:  
<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/county/cacltrs/penfltrs/penf2010/2010022.htm>

Fumigant Resource Center: [http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/methbrom/mb\\_main.htm](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/emon/methbrom/mb_main.htm)